


 CIS Announces \$300,000 Grant to the Michigan Health Council to Establish the Michigan Center for Nursing. A \$300,000 grant to establish and operate the Michigan Center for Nursing has been awarded to the Michigan Health Council. The role of the Michigan Center for Nursing will be to facilitate activities designed to ensure that an adequate and ongoing nursing workforce is available to meet the health care needs of the citizens of the State of Michigan. The grant will be allocated over a period of three years: \$150,000 for FY 2003, \$100,000 for FY 2004, and \$50,000 for FY2005. In addition to its depth of experience and track record of expertise on health care issues in Michigan, the MHC proposal was strengthened by the existing close relationship MHC has with the North Carolina Center for Nursing which is a nationally recognized organization focusing on nursing workforce issues similar to those faced in Michigan. The Michigan Center for Nursing will provide a central resource for all nursing workforce data, dealing with recruitment and retention issues, and strengthening nursing education. The Michigan Health Council will work in partnership with Public Sector Consultants, which originally recommended the creation of a Center for Nursing in a study it conducted on behalf of the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The July 2001 report "Study of the Current and Future Needs of the Professional Nursing Workforce in Michigan," is viewable on the Internet at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cis_fhs_nursrpt_34456_7.pdf

 State of Michigan Offers Permits Via the Internet. Authorized master plumbers and mechanical contractors join electrical contractors in being able to obtain permits from the State of Michigan via the Internet beginning Monday, December 16. This service was created as a result of the partnership of the CIS Bureau of Construction Codes and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT). Once a permit application is completed online it is approved immediately, which allows contractors to begin installing equipment and request inspections right away. The State of Michigan recently started issuing electrical permits online on Dec. 2nd and the concept has been so well received by contractors that plumbing and mechanical permits were added to the lineup of options for customers. A contractor may complete a permit application by accessing the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services Bureau of Construction Codes web site at: www.Michigan.gov/bccpermits. This service is available only for a "simple" permit, which is a project that does not require the submission of construction documents for plan review. Permit applications must be completed in their entirety and include the applicant's valid license number. An incomplete application will not generate a permit. Payment must be made with a valid Visa or Master Card. Accela will charge a "convenience fee" of \$5.00 plus 10% of the permit fee for the use of this Internet service.

 CIS' Liquor Control Commission Provides Internet Ordering Online. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission's Liquor Ordering website is now open for business to all liquor licensees. Liquor licensees, who must sign up to use the application, can now order at their convenience. The system will divide up the order by Authorized Distribution Agent (ADA) and show the person placing the order the delivery date for each ADA. Licensees can also choose to order the way that works best for them, such as placing separate orders closer to each ADA delivery day or placing one order for all their liquor for the week and receiving it on their next regularly scheduled delivery day. Licensees placing an order via the website receive an email confirmation of the order, including transaction confirmation numbers, delivery dates, a listing of items ordered, and price. Licensees who use the Internet ordering system can go back into the system throughout the day the order is placed and make updates to that order. Items can be added, deleted or changed throughout the order day. The system checks inventory availability for every item at each ADA. No payment information is required or taken by the Internet ordering system. Licensees pay by EFT, check or cash at delivery time as usual. This makes the system even faster and easier to use than other types of ordering. Licensees wishing to use this free service must first obtain a password and user ID by visiting www.michigan.gov/cis and clicking on "Liquor Control." The website provides information for licensees on obtaining a password to start using the Commission's Internet Ordering system.

 OFIS Releases 3rd Annual HMO Consumer Guide. The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) released the third annual health maintenance organization (HMO) Consumer Guide. The guide is available at www.michigan.gov/ofis or in hard copy by calling OFIS toll free at 877-999-6442. The guide provides HMO quality statistics, complaint information, and links to financial information. This guide assists consumers in choosing an HMO and making important health decisions. The direct link to the HMO Consumer Guide is http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10555_13222_13224-34152--,00.html. The guide is available on-line as a web-based database – consumers can choose among HMOs in their area to create a personal HMO guide. HMOs are measured on access/service, doctor communication/service, staying healthy services, and getting better/living with illness services. The HMO complaint information is based on statistics from the Patients Right to Independent Review Act (PRIRA).

MS Nurse Aide Registry Now Available on the Internet to Verify Certification. A new website has been launched to make it easier for care providers to verify certification of nurse aides on the Michigan Nurse Aide Registry. The web site enables Michigan nursing homes, hospitals, hospices and home health agencies to quickly and easily look up potential employees to ensure they have current CNA status in order to help protect the health and safety of our state's most vulnerable citizens. Previously facilities had to call to obtain the information, now an inquiry report is just a click away and conveniently available 24 hours a day. A Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) is a nurse aide in the State of Michigan who has successfully completed a Competency Evaluation Program, including the Clinical Skills Test and Knowledge Test, and is placed on the Michigan Nurse Aide Registry. The web site is maintained by The Chauncey Group International, which tests individuals for CNA certification. The registry also helps protect residents of Michigan's nursing homes, hospitals and other care facilities since potential employers can find out if a nurse aide has been flagged for resident abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property. Registrants who are red-flagged are also ineligible for renewal and the information stays on their record permanently.

MS Michigan's Jobless Worker Hotline Expands Hours. Michigan expanded the hours of its toll-free hotline for jobless workers as of Nov. 4th to improve customer service efforts. The Bureau of Workers' & Unemployment Compensation is currently in the transition to enabling jobless workers to file unemployment claims via the Internet and the phone, which will be launched in the very near future. To help ease the process, the state has recently begun accepting Claims by Mail, which enables unemployed individuals to file by mail and then call statewide toll-free hotline MARVIN every two weeks to certify. The mail applications for unemployment benefits are available at <http://www.michigan.gov/bwuc> where it can be downloaded and then mailed in. The new hours of the Bureau's Claimant Customer Relations Hotline (1-800-638-3995) are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The hotline was previously open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hotline staff answers caller questions about the claims process and other aspects of the unemployment insurance system. The bureau expects to open one of its three call centers for taking claims by phone in December with the other two opening in early 2003. Within weeks BW&UC will introduce the ability to file unemployment claims through the Internet. It has already begun to allow large employers to file benefit claims on behalf of their workers during mass layoffs.

Serving Michigan...Serving You



**Michigan Department of
Consumer & Industry Services
G Mennen Williams Building
PO Box 30004
Lansing MI 48909**

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US Postage Paid
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 1200*
